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Total, 3,271.79
Previously Acknowledged, 102,503.84

Grand Total, $105,775.63

American Library Association at Montreal

The twenty-second annual meeting of this association, June 6-12, was notable as being the first one held on "foreign" territory. And, while there have always been Canadian members of the association and the name "American" has been held in the widest sense, this meeting brought out the fact clearly that the public library idea is as yet foreign to Canada. But one public library supported by a municipality exists in the Province of Quebec and few in Ontario, that of Toronto being a notable example. The conflict of races in Canada is sharpest along educational lines, and the library movement is conditioned too completely on solidarity in the body politic to flourish while such a conflict exists. This remark is exemplified to nearly as great a degree in our Southern states.

Over 400 library people were in attendance, coming from all parts of the United States, the Southern delegation, while still small, showing a healthy growth. The matters acted upon had relation to all phases of library work, those which received special attention being training in librarianship as a profession, co-operation among libraries in cataloguing and measures for making free libraries freer of access through open shelves, branches and delivery stations and efforts to draw the people to the library.

The missionary aspect of this movement is still predominant, and the association begins this year the issue of a series of Library Tracts for free distribution by the library commissions and associations of the states. The two now issued are on the subjects, Why Do We Need a Public Library? and How to Start a Public Library. Single copies of either of these can be procured by inclosing five cents in stamps to the A. L. A. Publishing Board, 10½ Beacon Street, Boston, which is, appropriately enough, next door to the Congregational House. W. I. F.

Mr. Sheldon's Expectation

Rev. Charles M. Sheldon has been interviewed by his host in Liverpool, Rev. C. F. Aked, and the outcome appears in *The Christian World*. Asked for his explanation of the success of his books, Mr. Sheldon replied:

It is a sign of something, that is all. The sign is nothing except for what it means. It seems to me that there is coming such an awakening of the human heart to religious influences as there has never been since the Reformation. All over the world men are getting ready for it; God is preparing for it. Men don't want creeds nor theologies nor statements about God and about Christ. They want God; they want Christ; and they are ready to be shown God's will. It is coming. Dr. Hillis believes that it is coming. Mr. Moody, just before he died, said that his only regret in going up higher was that he would not be here to see what he himself called the new evangelism, which would be different from his own, but for which the race is waiting.

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The Congregationalist's Indian Famine Relief Fund

Send all contributions to *Frank H. Wiggin, Treasurer American Board, 14 Beacon Street, Boston,* marking them "For The Congregationalist's Indian Famine Relief Fund."

J. D. Lynde, Haddonfield, N. J.,	$50.
Y. P. S. C. E., Saugus Center,	4.
Cong. S. S., Mendon, Ill.,	9.21
W. B. M. P.,	16.05
Miss C. E. Belnap, Grand Rapids, Mich.,	1.
Y. P. S. C. E., Ellington, Ct.,	4.61
Miss McGregor's S. S. class, Gloversville, N. Y., by W. B. M.,	3.75
S. S., Germantown, Pa., " "	20.36
Primary Class, Germantown, Pa., " "	6.
Aux., East Hardwick, Vt., " "	3.
Y. P. S. C. E., Bethel Ch., Portland, Me., " "	10.
Cong. S. S., New Haven, Mich.,	5.75
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Y. P. S. C. E., Athol Center,	15.50
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Margaret Munsell,	1.45
A Mother, Skowhegan, Me.,	.50
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Cong. Ch., Russell, Kan.,	14.54
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Rev. J. S. Bayne, Mendon, Ill.,	1.25
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C., Newton Center,	15.
C. M. Cutter, Belfast, Me.,	5.
Ethel Wood, Medfield,	1.
Jun. C. E. Soc., Royalton, Wis.,	1.45
Edna Prive, Tacoma, Wn.,	.50
Mary Rollins, East Concord, N. H.,	.25
Charlotte E. Pratt, Boston,	50.
Harvard Ch., Brookline,	10.
Thro' W. B. M. I.,	16.74
Ladies' Benev. Circle, Candia, N. H.,	15.
Cong. Ch., East Gilead, Ct.,	7.52
J. W. Bacon, Newton,	5.
Mrs. Caroline Maynard, Oakham,	1.
Mrs. Elizabeth Morse, "	.75
Edwards Y. P. S. C. E., Northampton,	15.
Cong. Ch., Maplewood,	9.
Olivet Cong. Ch., St. Paul, Minn.,	5.
Total,	$389.24
Previously Acknowledged,	123,645.90
Grand Total,	**$124,035.14**

Week of Prayer Topics, 1901 *

SUGGESTED BY THE EVANGELICAL ALLIANCE AND INDORSED BY THE BOSTON MINISTERS' MEETING

Jan. 6-12

Monday. Prayer for a better realization of spiritual truth and a better estimate of spiritual realities; a clearer vision of the redeeming Christ and of the actual need and the divinely intended glory of the world which he redeemed.

Tuesday. Prayer for a church which, through faith in Christ and by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, shall be wholly Christian, doing God's will and winning the world to Christ.

Wednesday. Prayer for such Christian character and life as shall be pleasant in the home, honored in business relations, welcomed in the neighborhood, helpful in the church—personal religion being thus manifested in its rightful attractiveness.

Thursday. Prayer for right relations in society and the nation, with the Golden Rule obeyed as between man and man, and all social and political action guided by justice and good will—the Christian ideal.

Friday. Prayer for all international relationships and all international action, that they may be based on the Christian principles which apply to the individual—the reign of the Prince of Peace.

Saturday. Prayer for all missionaries and all missionary organizations, that, being wholly inspired by Christian devotion and wholly guided by Christian wisdom, they may speedily and triumphantly fulfill the Saviour's last command.

For the first time in many years the Boston Ministers' Meeting, instead of preparing a separate list, has accepted and heartily indorsed the alliance topics prepared with especial reference to the new century.

* These topics are printed in *The Congregationalist's* Handbook for 1901.

Balancing Points

Taking Account of Advantages

With the closing of the year the books of business are balanced and gains and losses determined. The incoming of a new century has already stimulated comparative study to learn wherein the last hundred years have been profitable.

In relation to reading it would be well if there were a Balancing of Points more frequently. What is the actual product of misdirected, promiscuous, overwrought, non-religious reading? Usually ineffective and unintelligent service. And this situation is a fact in many nominally Christian homes.

Over against it kindly take account of the advantages of a religious weekly like *The Congregationalist:*

It is a Twentieth Century paper. Plans, matter and mechanical appearance commend it as up to date. It is useful to business men in the conciseness of its news and the brevity of its current history review.
It is broad in its sympathies with all good. While Congregational in spirit, it recognizes Christianity before polity. Its "Christian World numbers" are approved for their wide scope and fellowship.
It believes in the household as a unit. Suggestion and information are brought to every member.
It trains for effective Christian life within the local church. The appeal of the church universal is recognized and the usefulness of the denomination is appreciated, but this journal believes that their practical success is secured by co-operation with the membership of the local body.

In Balancing Points compare this analysis with the prospectus of other papers which you read.

Trial subscribers will do well to note these.

Readers planning to make their friends a present of the Best Twentieth Century Religious Newspaper will do well to note these also.

A Happy New Year will come to all who read it.

Yours, *THE CONGREGATIONALIST,*
Warren P. Landers, Supt. of Circulation.

BABY LAUGH

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